

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-10 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-8 and the specification are amended, and new claims 11 and 12, a new Abstract, and replacement Figs. 8 and 9 are presented.

New claims 11 and 12 and the amendments to claims 1, 3 and 6-8 are fully supported by the application as filed.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 7, 9 and 10.

Claims 1-12 are presented for further or initial prosecution on the merits.

In the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2004, drawing Figs. 8 and 9 were objected to for failing to include an appropriate legend, and Fig. 9 was further objected to for including an incorrect reference character. In the replacement Figs. 8 and 9, presented herein, the legend "Conventional Art" has been added, and reference character 4 in Fig. 9 has been changed to reference character 5, as requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the abstract, specification and claims 1-10 were objected to for informalities. A new Abstract and amendments to the specification and claims 1-10 are presented to overcome these objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 57140222 ("JP '222"). It is noted that claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection, as follows.

Applicants submit that JP '222 does not disclose or suggest at least the limitation of a portion for inserting the stopper for said communicating member being engaged with said stopper at a place deviating from the operational rotation range of said body of the sun visor, to insert said shaft into said bearing member, as recited in pending claim 1.

Rather, in JP '222, the communicating member 24 is engaged with the stopper 43 at a place that is within the operational rotation range of the body of the sun visor 20, as clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 6. Thus, during normal operation of the sun visor of JP '222, it is possible for the stopper 43 to become engaged with the communicating member 24.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Further, claims 5, 6 and 8, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 are respectfully requested.

The outstanding Office Action indicates that claims 2-4, 7, 9, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claims 2-4, 7, 9, and 10 are amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 2-4, 7, 9, and 10 are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, new claims 11 and 12 are added. Applicants submit that newly added claim 11 is allowable over the cited prior art, at least because JP '222 neither discloses nor suggests the limitation that for the entire operational rotation range of the body of the sun visor, the stopper and the stopper inserting portion are radially separated, as recited in claim 11. Rather, as illustrated in FIG. 6 of JP '222, the stopper and stopper inserting portion are in a same position, at least in a radial direction, for at least a portion of the operational rotation range of the body of the sun visor.

Similarly to the above, the applicants submit that newly added claim 12 is allowable over the cited prior art, at least because JP '222 neither discloses nor suggests the limitation of a portion for inserting the stopper, to insert said shaft into said bearing member, wherein a position of the stopper when the shaft is inserted deviates radially from a position of the stopper when the body of the sun visor is within the operational rotation range of the body of the sun visor, as recited in claim 12.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 11 and 12 are believed to be allowable, and an early and favorable action on claims 11 and 12 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 1-12 are believed to be patentably distinct over the cited prior art reference and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, PLLC



Michele L. Connell
Registration No. 52,763

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6104
Fax: (202) 857-6395

MLC/sg

Enclosures: New Abstract
Replacement Sheet

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 8 and 9. This sheet, which includes Figs. 8 and 9, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 8 and 9. In Figures 8 and 9, the legend "Conventional Art" has been added, and in Fig. 9, reference character 4 has been replaced with reference character 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet